

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /156 W

----- 040566

R 201524Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5704

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, PINT

SUBJECT: TUC GENERAL SECRETARY DISCUSSES KEY ISSUES

REF: (A) LONDON 13361; (B) LONDON 10329

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: LIONEL (LEN) MURRAY, IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING WITH LONDON-BASED LABOR ATTACHES SINCE BECOMING TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, GAVE HIS VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY

2. GOVERNMENT CONFRONTATION - MURRAY SAID HE DOES NOT  
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BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT A POLITICAL

CONFRONTATION OVER THE DISPUTE IN THE MINING INDUSTRY (REF A). HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT SUCH A CONFRONTATION COULD DEVELOP IF THE DISPUTE WERE NOT RESOLVED SOON. HE INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE LABOR PARTY ALSO WAS OPPOSED TO A CONFRONTATION AT THIS TIME, AND HE NOTED THAT JOSEPH GORMLEY, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS (NUM) "IS A VERY POLITICAL ANIMAL" WHO DOES NOT WANT TO FORCE THE LABOR PARTY INTO A PREMATURE BATTLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE KEY TO THE DISPUTE, MURRAY ACKNOWLEDGED, LAY WITHIN THE NUM WHERE THE GORMLEY-LED MODERATE FACTION WAS ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE AGAINST THE OPPOSITION OF THE EXTREME LEFT-WINGERS. TO DATE, HE ADDED, THE NUM HAS NOT SOUGHT TUC INTERVENTION IN THE DISPUTE.

3. CHARACTERIZATION OF HEATH - MURRAY CHARACTERIZED THE PRIME MINISTER AS "AN HONEST MAN WHO, I THINK, WANTS TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE. HE HAS IN GENERAL THE SAME TARGETS WE (TUC) HAVE BUT WE SIMPLY DIFFER WITH HIM ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE TARGETS." MURRAY SAID THAT HEATH WAS MISTAKEN IN INSISTING ON A COMPULSORY INCOMES POLICY. AS A RESULT OF IT, THE WAGE MAXIMUMS LAID DOWN UNDER THE PAY CODE ARE VIEWED AS MINIMUMS BY TRADE UNION LEADERS, WHO WANT "TO DO A BIT BETTER" THAN LEADERS OF OTHER UNIONS. ACCORDING TO MURRAY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE GOVERNMENT "TO BE TOUGH ON THE PRICES SIDE" WHILE ALLOWING FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TO FUNCTION "ON THE WAGES SIDE." IN THIS VIEW, THE TOTAL WAGE PACKET WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS THAN IT IS NOW, AS EMPLOYERS - STRENGTHENED BY A LOWER PRICE STRUCTURE - WOULD HAVE FOUGHT HARDER TO KEEP DOWN WAGE INCREASES.

4. TUC-LABOR PARTY RELATIONSHIPS - MURRAY APPEARED VERY DETERMINED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE BRITISH TUC SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT FROM THE LABOR PARTY. HE SAID THAT THE TUC, IN KEEPING SOME DISTANCE FROM CERTAIN PARTY POLICIES, WOULD BE FREE TO DEAL WITH BOTH SIDES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WOULD PREFER A LABOR PARTY IN POWER BECAUSE, IN GENERAL, ITS BASIC PROGRAM IS MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE FAVORS CONTINUED TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT (ON INCOMES POLICIES AND OTHER ISSUES).

5. THE TUC AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - MURRAY SAID HE DID NOT SEE THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD BE WORSE OFF THAN IT IS NOW IF IT WERE TO LEAVE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE OPPOSED THE DECISION OF THE TUC

CONGRESS AT BLACKPOOL IN SEPTEMBER WHICH REFUSED PARTICIPATION OF THE TUC IN THE EC INSTITUTIONS (NAMELY EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE) - REF B. MURRAY BELIEVES THE CONGRESS SHOULD NOT HAVE TIED THE HANDS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND INSTEAD SHOULD HAVE ALLOWED THE TUC LEADERSHIP TO KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN, PERHAPS USING THE ISSUE AS A BARGAINING COUNTER IN BRUSSELS. (MURRAY ADDS THAT, NONETHELESS, HE HAS LITTLE REGARD FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, WHICH HE VIEWS MAINLY AS A "TALKING SHOP.")

6. ETUC, EAST-WEST RELATIONS - MURRAY SAID HE FAVORED

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EARLY CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC). HE ALSO FAVORS THE ADMITTANCE OF THE ITALIAN CGIL AND THE FRENCH CGT, ALTHOUGH THE TIMING WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. THE TUC GENERAL SECRETARY WAS MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT A RE-STRUCTURING OF THE WORLD TRADE UNION MOVEMENT (ICFTU, WCL, AND WFTU). HE INTERPRETED THE BLACKPOOL CONGRESS RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION UNITY (REF B) MORE AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO INCREASED EAST-WEST CONTACTS THAN AS A CALL FOR REALIGNMENT OF WORLD LABOR. HE ALSO INSISTS THAT, IN MOVING TOWARDS INCREASED EAST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEST CONTACTS, THE BRITISH TUC WAS FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE GERMAN DGB.

7. THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE - MURRAY DOES NOT SHARE, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GERMAN DGB'S TACTICAL APPROACH TO A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN GENEVA THIS JANUARY, THE LEADERS OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS SHOULD DISCUSS WITH EASTERN EUROPE TRADE UNION LEADERS WHEN AND WHERE THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD. THIS MEETING SHOULD NOT CONSIDER AGENDA, HE SAID. HE IS OPPOSED TO HAVING THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ILO WORKERS' GROUP, SINCE IF THIS WERE TO BE DONE, THE ICFTU, WHICH DOMINATES THE WORKERS' GROUP, WOULD ALSO DOMINATE THE CONFERENCE. SINCE THIS IS TO BE A EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, IT SHOULD BE OUTSIDE OF ICFTU CONTROL.

8. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO PROVIDE A CLEAR ASSESSMENT OF MURRAY IN HIS NEW ROLE AS GENERAL SECRETARY. IN THIS DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, IT CAN BE NOTED THAT WHILE HE HEWED CLOSELY TO MOST CURRENT TUC POLICIES, HE DID GIVE SOME EVIDENCE OF BEING AN ISSUE-ORIENTED LEADER WHO HAS THE CAPACITY FOR DISCERNING THE SHADINGS AND NUANCES OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED TO US THAT HOWEVER STRONGLY HE WOULD FIGHT EXTERNALLY, FOR AGREED-UPON TUC POLICIES, HE WOULD ALSO AGGRESSIVELY ADVANCE HIS OWN VIEWS INSIDE THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL. IN TERMS OF STYLE AND PRESENTATION, MURRAY IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM HIS PREDECESSOR, VICTOR FEATHER, IN THAT HE IS FAR LESS CHARISMATIC A PERSONALITY, BUT THIS IS BALANCED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE MEASURED, PERHAPS "COOLER," APPROACH TO PROBLEMS WHICH HE APPEARS TO DEMON-

STRATE. PERHAPS MURRAY'S MAIN CHALLENGE IS TO MANEUVER  
WITHIN A TUC POWER STRUCTURE WHICH IS DOMINATED BY  
SUCH MILITANT FIGURES AS JACK JONES AND HUGH SCANLON.

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## Message Attributes

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